A

REVIEVV

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, January 11. 1706.

I Have hitherto proceeded to ſay ſomething of what has been printed, relating to the ſeveral Heads of Taxes, Exciſes, Equalities, and the like, between, *England* and *Scotland* in Caſe of a Union, in Anſwer to Mr. *H——s* and other Objectors——

There is indeed a certain Gentleman, who has printed *Conſiderations, &c. upon Trade, in Caſe of the Union*, and he makes large Demands: As firſt, 'That the Draw-back "upon Fiſh ſhould be conſiderably more "than the Value of the Salt.

This is an admirable Equality, I muſt confeſs, and is all one with a good Bounty on the Export of Fiſh, and deſerves no other Reply.

On Exciſes he demands, That they ſhould have Draw-backs, as he calls them, *tho' that is Nonſenſe, no Duty being firſt paid*, on Beer, Peaſe and Oats, as well as on Barley, Rye and Wheat.

As to their Beer, 'tis plain, it is the ſame kind as Barley, and they have a Bounty of 2 *s.* 6 *d. per* Quarter for it upon Exportation; for Peaſe and Oats they need no Bounty to export them; for *England* wants them, and will take off the greateſt Quantity they can ſpare; and it would be Nonſenſe to give a Bounty to export that abroad, which we want at home.

Then he demands Liberty to export the Woollen Manufactures, Linnen, and other Branches of Improvement of *Scotland*.

This is a very weak Demand, ſince they enjoy it by the very Nature of the thing, and by the Terms of the Union; no Tax can be laid on the Woollen Manufactures of that

that Kingdom of any Sort, unless at the same Time the same Tax be laid on the Woollen Manufactures in this; otherwise how have the Subjects equal Privileges and equal Taxes?

All these things are trifling and of no Consequence.

Then he objects against the Article of Shipping, but forgets, that it is not deny'd for *English* Ships to bring from *Holland* or *Germany* any Goods to them whatsoever, and there are enough of them, without letting the *Dutch* into the Trade, and make them Carriers to *Britain*, when our own Ships and Sailors want Employment.

Then he wants a Port in *Scotland* to import *Irish* Wool. There is no need to condition in the Treaty for it, they may on Demand have as many as they please, and *England* might have more if they wanted it the Restraint being design'd for the *Irish* not the *English*.

So all these mighty Demands are over. I come next to their Calculations on the Equivalent, and its being repaid in 11 Years: Suppose I allow it to be so, I see no Argument to be drawn from it, they are Equivalents to one another; *England* gives the Money as an Equivalent to the Customs, and *Scotland* pays the Customs as an Equivalent to the Money. The Necessity of the one is the Reason of the other; and if the Customs did not pay it again, I would ask, *why it is advanc'd at all?* But still the Calculation is supposititious as to Time also, and it may be 100 Years and more, for any thing appears in this Calculation; and if it may be a long time, then the Consideration for a Risque of its Certainty is worth more than common Interest, since if the Customs of *Scotland* do not encrease, and as some suggest, Trade should decline in *Scotland*, they may perhaps be never repaid at all.

If the Customs do encrease, the Trade encreases, and then the Union helps them to encrease; and so the sooner it is paid, the more they get by the Union, and the longer 'tis a paying, the greater the Hazard to *England* is, in advancing their ready Money; and this I think, is all can be made of their nice Calculations; of which I shall speak more largely by and by.

But then, says this wise Gentleman, "All Endeavours should be used to free us "from the Excise upon Beer and Ale. A very good Project indeed, and yet they would, in the first Place, receive above 304066 *l.* as an Equivalent for that Excise; and secondly, they agree to an Equality of Taxes, so I think there is an End of that Demand.

Another Objection, this Author raises, is about *England's* being tied up in Trade by incorporated Companies——Which is brought to argue against dissolving the *African* Company in *Scotland*.

Now, as the *African* Company here, neither is, nor in my Opinion ever was in Prospect of Success, or worth any Man's Notice as to *Scotland* in Trade, abstracting from the Assistance and Correspondence from *England for the Vent of their Returns*, and that it signifies not two Farthings whether dissolv'd or no, farther than to prevent a new Set of Interlopers with *English* Stocks under a *Scots* Title, so as to other Companies in *England*, the Suggestion is fallly stated: For first, there is no exclusive Company in *England*, but that of the *East-India*, and that the *Scots* have equal Right to be concern'd in, by purchasing the Stock, as any *English* Men have.

As to the *Guinea* Trade, upon paying 10 *per Cent* to the Company, any Body may trade, and their Factories, Colonies and Forts being their Settlement, under cover of which that Trade must be carried on, 'tis worth the Payment to obtain the Privilege.

The *Turkey*, *Hamburgh* and *Russia* Companies require only certain small Mulcts to maintain their Consuls, Residents and Ambassadors, and a small Fine at taking up the Freedoms; and the Advantages in these Cases, as to the Safety of Effects, and Security of the Commerce abroad, are the Interest of all the Traders; so that any Man, *Scots* Man or other, on these small Payments, may be admitted to a Freedom in the Company, and consequently into the Trade equally with *English* Men.

I think, I have now left none of the Objections unanswer'd, that bear any Weight in them; the Duties of Dales and Iron are of no Value to merit an Alteration. As to the

the Duty on Flax, if it were to pay 3 *l.* per ℔, instead of 3 *s.* it would be better for *Scotland*, where they have Lands and Illands enough, and ought to plant it themſelves; eſpecially ſince it is apparent, that when they do plant it, their Land produces better and finer than any they bring from abroad.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have taken ſome Pains in the *Miſcellanea* Part of this Paper, to ſhow the ridiculous Notions of thoſe, who fancy all *Scotland* in a Flame againſt the Union; I wiſh at laſt the Enemies of the Union do not appear to be nearer home, and the Animoſities there to be mov'd from hence; ſince the Proceedings in *England* are ſo directly calculated for the Deſtruction of that Treaty, than they are in *Scotland*.

I know, the Enemies of *Scotland* boaſt of their Hopes, and the Friends of Peace are not without their Fears, that this Union ſhall prove abortive there; but above all, that it ſhall be overthrown by the *Preſbyterians* themſelves.

I will not anſwer for the Indiſcretions and haſty Errors of a People, who are capable of being abus'd, and perhaps ſome Steps may have been taken to give them but too much Ground for ſuch Expectations; but the Joy of the Party has been diſcover'd too ſoon, and indeed the Snare was laid in the Sight of the Bird; the Plot is diſcover'd, and they may depend on it on all ſides, that the poor People deſign'd for a Sacrifice will not be drawn into the Pit, the *Preſbyterians* will not do the Work, the Kirk of *Scotland* will not bring in *Jacobitiſm* or *Popery*, they will ſtop ſhort at the Point, and fall off from the Project.

I muſt own, this looks to me as another Inſtance of the ſtupid and infatuated Folly of that unhapy Party, that they ſhould think ever to reconcile the Kirk and the Pope, the Revolution and the Family of King *James*, the *Presbyterian* and the *French* Intereſt into one.

Perhaps a few deluded poor People, led by their Paſſions, and impos'd upon by their ſubtil and wheedling Enemies, might be brought into the Snare; but I take the Freedom to ſay, they all abandon them as ſoon as they diſcover the real Deſign; and if they did not expect theſe would do ſo, it was their Fault, and no Body can be blam'd for that but themſelves.

All my Concluſion from hence is reſolv'd into two Things.

1. This *Jacobite* ſcoundrel Cauſe is not able to ſtand by it ſelf, cannot ſubſiſt upon its own Intereſt, nor live on its own Spirits, no not at home nor abroad———All the Foundation of its own Power cannot ſupport it, it cannot fight with its own Hands, ſpend its own Money, be help'd by its own Friends; all its own Mines are ſprung, 'tis languiſhing, dying and deſpairing; nothing but Craft and Artifice, juggling, lying, betraying, buying and ſelling, will do the Buſineſs now; their own Ammunition is all ſpent, and without theſe Helps they muſt ſink; their is nothing left them, but to hang themſelves or deſert their Cauſe.

2. The Intereſt of Religion and Liberty in *Britain* has but one Door of Danger, at which Deſtruction can enter; but one fatal Article which lays them open to any real Miſchief, and that is, being gull'd, wheedled, drawn, or driven into Diſ-Unions, Breaches, Quarrels and Diviſions among themſelves.

The Remedy for this is a Doctrine, which has been ſo often inculcated by the Nature and Circumſtances of both Kingdoms, that I would hope, there ſhould be no more need to ſay any thing to it———And I am perſwaded, there is no real Occaſion to fear either Nation being any more cheated in that Manner.

Whereas

WHereas a malicious Report has been ſpread about, that the Author of the REVIEW *being in* Scotland, *the* REVIEW *is not perform'd by the ſame Perſon, as uſual— Which Report is carefully handed about to leſſen the Reputation and Value of the ſaid Paper.*

This is, Firſt, *to aſſure the World, that no Perſon whatever has or ever had any Concern in writing the ſaid Paper Entitled the* REVIEW*——That wherever the Author may be, the Papers are wrote with his own Hand, and the Originals may be ſeen at the Printers.*

Secondly, *the Judgment of the Gentlemen, that ſpread this Report, muſt be very good; that can neither gueſs at the Stile, nor gueſs by the Story or Manner of it both, whether it be the Author's, and where the Author is.*

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